

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9642
USINFO WASHDC
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USCINCEUR-ECAP
USNMR SHAPE
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

UNCLAS MADRID 2511

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, NU, SP
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA ARTICLE

1. APRIL 4 -10 ISSUE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE CAMBIO 16
(LEFT CENTER) PUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH PRIEST POET
ERNESTO CARDENAL:

2. "NICARAGUA IS A SMALL VIETNAM, BUT SMALL ONLY
IN THE DIMENSIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND NOT IN THE AMOUNT
OF REPRESSION LET LOOSE AGAINST THE PEOPLE. I HAVE
AUTHENTIC TESTIMONY OF ATROCITIES LIKE THE BEHEADING
OF AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CHILD OR THE MACHINE-GUNNING
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OF A SIX-MONTH-OLD BABY.'...ERNESTO CARDINAL...
DENOUNCED IN THESE WORDS A FEW DAYS AGO IN MEXICO
THE 'EXTERMINATION OPERATION' LAUNCHED IN HIS COUNTRY
BY THE DICTATOR ANASTASIO TACHITO SOMOZA. CARDINAL
WAS RETURNING FROM THE U.S. WHERE HE HAD MET WITH
CONGRESS TO GIVE TESTIMONY ABOUT THE MASSACRES IN
NICARAGUA."

3. "WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT A WAR BETWEEN SOLDIERS, BUT ABOUT A PLAN OF POPULATION EXTERMINATION TO FINISH WITH THE PEASANTS AND THE POOR, ACCUSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLLABORATING WITH THE SANDINISTAS...NAPALM IS BEING USED TO BOMBARD CIVILIANS, USING AMERICAN HELICOPTERS BASED IN PANAMA.'

4. "AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN 'OPERATION EXTERMINATION' ...IS AMPLY PROVEN.' IN CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, THE PRIEST PRESENTED DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THE SITES IN THE UNITED STATES WHERE THE MILITARY OF SOMOZA ARE TRAINED, AND GAVE A LIST OF NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS, KNOWN EXPERTS IN TORTURE WHO HAD RECEIVED COURSES IN THE U.S. AND IN THE AMERICAN ZONE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. AMONG THESE FIGURES IS THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY OF NICARAGUA, SAMUEL JENNINGS, WHO TOOK COMMANDO AND GENERAL STAFF COURSES IN PANAMA IN 1957 AND IN COUNTERINSURGENCY AT THE INTERAMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE IN THE U.S.

5. "TOGETHER WITH HIM WORKS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SPECIALISTS IN TORTURE, THE GERMAN GUNTER WAGNER, A MILITANT NAZI IN HIS YOUTH AND LATER AN AID EMPLOYEE, WHO IS UNDER THE DIRECT ORFERS OF SOMOZA.'

6. "IN THE LIST OF DOCUMENTED ACCUSATIONS...IS ONE THAT SOMOZA TRIES TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IN SEVERAL CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. CARDINAL DENOUNCED
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NICARAGUAN INTERVENTION IN GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR 'WHICH ARE PRACTICALLY UNDER HIS CONTROL, OF COURSE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PENTAGON...THE GOVERNMENT OF MANAGUA...HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS OF PANAMA, BECAUSE OF THE PROGRESSIVE REFORMS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS MADE. AND AT THE SAME TIME, AN INVASION OF THE BRITISH COLONY OF BELIZE IS BEING PREPARED. A PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT EXISTS THERE, ALTHOUGH ITS PREMIER, GEORGE PRICE, IS A FERVENT CATHOLIC. ON SUNDAYS HE RETIRES TO EXAMINE HIS CONSCIENCE TO SEE IF HE HAS FAILED IN ANYTHING FOR HIS PEOPLE. SOMOZA, WITH THE PENTAGON BEHIND HIM, WANTS TO TAKE BELIZE AS SOON AS THE BRITISH TROOPS LEAVE.'

7. "THE ATTITUDE...OF JIMMY CARTER ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS SEEMS TO HAVE FRIGHTENED THE DICTATOR A BIT. LAST FEBRUARY, HE TRIED TO MEET WITH THE WHITE HOUSE CHIEF, BUT TWO DEMOCRATIC SENATORS, FRIENDS OF SOMOZA, JOHN

MURPHY AND LARRY MACDONALD, WENT TO MANAGUA TO TELL HIM
TO WAIT FOR A BETTER OCCASION. 'THESE SENATORS ARE
GANGSTERS...AND HAVE SO LITTLE PRESTIGE THAT THEIR
COLLEAGUES CALL THEM NAZIS.' MURPHY SEEMS TO BE THE
LINK BETWEEN THE NICARAGUAN LEADERS AND THE JOHN BIRCH
SOCIETY..." EATON

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Disposition Event:
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